

Radical

Lesson 2: Too Hungry for Words

DAY 1

Read Chapter 2

Memory Verse: Not everyone who calls out to me, “Lord! Lord!” will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. Matt. 7.21 (NLT)

Context: Fundamentally, the gospel is the revelation of who God is, who we are, and how we can be reconciled to Him. Yet in an American dream where self reigns as king (or queen), we have a dangerous tendency to misunderstand, minimize, and even manipulate the gospel in order to accommodate our assumptions and our desires. As a result, we desperately need to explore how much of our understanding of the gospel is American and how much is biblical. In the process we need to examine whether we have misconstrued a proper response to the gospel and maybe even missed the primary reward of the gospel, which is God Himself.

DAY 2

BIBLE STUDY

Focal Passage: Matthew 7.13-27

Supporting Passages: Psalm 119; John 3.1-21; Romans 3.21-26; Hebrews 5.11-6.3; James 1.22-25

Biblical Truth: God’s Word is the standard by which God’s people must live.

1. Read verses 13 and 14. List below the four things contrasted in these two verses and how they are defined. (One has been completed for you as a model.)
 - the gate, strait or wide
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
2. How does a Christian discern the difference between a true and a false prophet?
3. Of the two ways identified in verses 13 & 14, which way would a false prophet most likely insist was the right path to take?

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4. In verses 15-20, what two images are used to describe worldly influences creeping into the church?

5. In verses 21-23, Jesus is speaking to people who are members of the church. Do these people believe they are saved? According to their argument (v. 22), what is their basis for believing they are saved?

6. It may be a hard thing to understand, but everyone who claims to be a Christian is not a Christian. Many who claim to be saved are, in fact, lost. What is the determining factor according to verses 24-27?

7. It may appear to be obvious to you at first, but what is the “rock” that the first man built his house upon? (Hint: The answer is not “Christ.” Pay special attention to v. 24.)

DAY 3

1. What is meant when a person says, “All paths lead to God”? How does David Platt (DP) counter this concept? (See p. 33)

2. According to those who hold this opinion (All paths lead to God), what is the goal of all world religions?

3. According to world religions, who initiates relationships between man and God? Who initiates the relationship according to the gospel? (John 14.6)

4. Read again the two paragraphs on p. 38-39, the first of which begins “The danger of spiritual deception...” How do these thoughts compare to the “two pathways” model (the broad way which leads to destruction and the difficult way which leads to life)?

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DAY 4

1. On p. 28, DP writes, “We desperately need to explore how much of our understanding of the gospel is American and how much is biblical. Can you think of examples that give evidence that our gospel is “Americanized”?”
2. What is the primary reward of the gospel according to most church members? What does DP say is the primary reward of the gospel? (p. 28)
3. After you have read the section “Who God Really Is” (p. 28-30), list the attributes of God identified in this section. Which of these attributes is most important?
4. In the section of the chapter entitled “Who We Really Are” (p. 30-32), DP speaks of “the beauty of the gospel.” How does he contrast the typical view that the world (and most church members) have of salvation and Christianity with what the Bible actually teaches?

DAY 5

1. Review again the section of the chapter entitled “Who We Really Are” (p. 30-32). Before becoming a Christian, what is the attitude of all human hearts toward God? Identify at least three scriptures to support your answer.
2. Invite learners to consider the following statements that they may have heard or even spoken to someone about salvation:
 - Do you want to go to heaven when you die?
 - Do you know where you will spend eternity?
 - Jesus will heal all of your hurts.
 - You can receive forgiveness for your sins and be guilt-free.

Whom do these questions revolve around? What kind of Christianity do we portray when we focus salvation on questions/statements such as those above?

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3. On p. 33-39, express in your own words the stark contrast DP makes between the death of Christ for the sin of man and the simplistic explanation of the salvation process typically taught in churches. Do you agree with his assessment?

4. On p. 39, DP reminds us that we are saved by grace, and that “the gift of grace involves the gift of a new heart.” What are the effects of this new heart? How are a saved person’s thoughts about God changed?